# Blanche Ito Pincushion

***Leucospermum 'Blanche Ito'***

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Nodding Pincushion, Protea Pincushion

**Description:**

An attractive, upright shrub featuring long lasting, yellow pincushion flowers that darken to salmon, then red-orange as they age; great for cutting; like most Protea family plants, use very little slow release fertilizer with low phosphorus content



*Blanche Ito Pincushion flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Ornamental Features**

Blanche Ito Pincushion features showy yellow pincushion flowers with salmon overtones and red tips at the ends of the branches from mid winter to late spring. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has grayish green foliage with hints of silvery blue which emerges chartreuse in spring. The fuzzy oval leaves remain grayish green throughout the winter.



*Blanche Ito Pincushion flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Landscape Attributes**

Blanche Ito Pincushion is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Blanche Ito Pincushion is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Blanche Ito Pincushion will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Blanche Ito Pincushion makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.